

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/000610

International filing date (day/month/year)
04.03.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
17.03.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
A61K39/12, A61K39/295

FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below

Applicant
PHARMACIA & UPJOHN COMPANY LLC

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for International preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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10/593134

International application No.
PCT/B2005/000610WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material:

a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material:

in written format
 in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing:

contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/000610

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and Industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

the entire international application,
 claims Nos. 1-9 (with respect to IA)

because:

the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 1-9 (with respect to IA) relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

see separate sheet

the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (specify):
 the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
 no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos.
 the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:

the written form

has not been furnished
 does not comply with the standard

the computer readable form

has not been furnished
 does not comply with the standard

the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.

See separate sheet for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/000610

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: Claims | 1-18 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: Claims | 1-18 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 10-18 |
| | No: Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

Re item III.

Claims 1-9 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of R. 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Art. 34(4)(a)(i) PCT).

Re item V.

1. *Novelty (Art. 33(2) PCT):*

As the prior art does not teach the prevention of testicular BVDV infection, the subject-matter of claims 1-18 is novel.

2. *Inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT):*

The invention solves the problem of preventing the spread of BVDV infection through semen. This is achieved by preventing testicular BVDV infection by vaccination against BVDV. Although testicular BVDV infection and vaccination against BVDV are known in the art, there appears to be a prejudice against the prevention of testicular BVDV infection by vaccination against BVDV as testes, being an immunoprivileged site, are considered to be excluded from immunoprotection resulting from vaccination. Hence, the subject-matter of claims 1-18 is considered to involve an inventive step.

3. *Industrial applicability (Art. 33(4) PCT):*

3.1 For the assessment of the present claims 1-9 on the question whether they are industrially applicable, no unified criteria exist in the PCT Contracting States. The patentability can also be dependent upon the formulation of the claims. The EPO, for example, does not recognize as industrially applicable the subject-matter of claims to the use of a compound in medical treatment, but may allow, however, claims to a known compound for first use in medical treatment and the use of such a compound for the manufacture of a medicament for a new medical treatment.

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3.2 The subject-matter of claims 10-18 is considered industrial applicable.

4. *Clarity (Art. 6 PCT):*

Claims 11-18 refer to a method. The antecedent, however refers to a use, whereby unclarity arises.